

Shaikh Abu Haatim Usaamah Al-Qoosee

Author: Autobiography

Source: A document he gave to SSNA

Translator: Abu Maryam

My Name and Lineage:

Usaamah Ibn 'Abd-il-Lateef Ibn Mahmood Al-Qoosee Al-Hajaaajee

My Family Lineage:

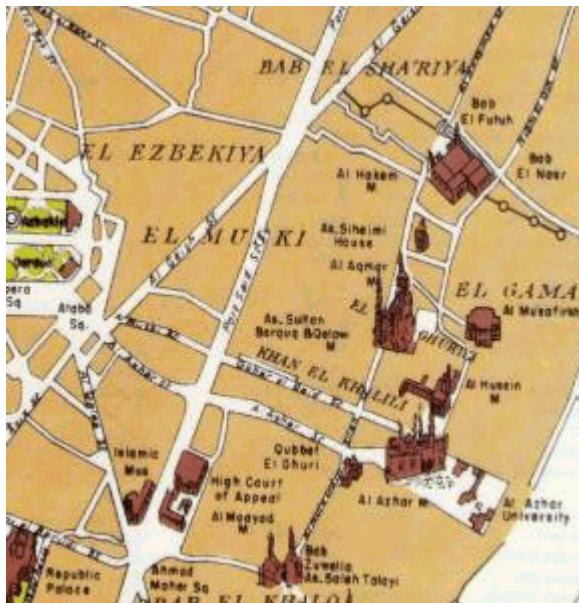
It traces back to Abul-Hajaaaj Al-Aqsaree, whose name was Yoosuf Ibn 'Abd-ir-Raheem Ibn Ghazee Al-Qurshee. ¹ May Allaah free him of the polytheistic and innovatory practices that occur at his gravesite!

My Birth:

I was born on the morning of the Day of 'Arafah in 1373H (7/8/1954) in Cairo, Egypt.

My Upbringing:

I was born in Egypt, in the Muski area, in Shiyaadah Al-Munaasarah ² behind Daar Al-Kutub. ³ And I was brought up in the house of my mother's father (i.e. grandfather) for the period of a year. Then my father moved to a residence in the Hadaa'iq Al-Qubbah area. This is where I grew up and spent the length of my youth, adolescence and early adulthood. During this time, I pursued my general grade-level studies in the Nuqraashi School, which has the pattern of primary level (6 years), then secondary level (3 years), and then high school level (3 years).



Thereafter, I obtained entrance into the Faculty of Medicine in the University of 'Ayn Shams, where I remained for five years studying medicine. During this period in time, I learned Tajweed from some of my colleagues at school, and I memorized what I was able to of the Qur'aan. The Correct Path of Islaam was not wholly clear to me at that time due to the large amount of Hizbees (partisans), activists, Takfeerees, Sufis and so on that were around me. Then I received the opportunity to make 'Umrah along with my classmates on a college trip, during the month of Ramadaan in 1397H

¹ This is how Adh-Dhahabee mentioned it in his book *Siyar A'alaam an-Nubalaa* (pg. 23-148) and he described him as being the "Elder", the "Zaahid."

² **Translator's Note:** A vicinity within the Muski area.

³ **Translator's Note:** This is a famous landmark in Egypt, where people used to sell books, hence its name Daar Al-Kutub (Place of the Books). Now it is mostly reserved for administrative offices

(1977). So this served as the start of my search for knowledge and my being guided to the path of the Salaf As-Saalih.

My search for knowledge:

In Makkah, I met some students of knowledge from Saudi Arabia and other parts of the world. In turn, they introduced me to some of the scholars and mashaayikh, and I began to understand that there was something called *Talab-ul-'Ilm* (Seeking Knowledge). So I attended some classes in the Haram at Makkah, taught by Shaikh Badee'-ud-Deen Ar-Raashidee As-Sindee, the Muhaddith of the land of Sind, (Rahimahu 'Llah). I also visited his house and his library, which was filled with remarkable books and non-printed manuscripts. After Ramadaan, I moved to the city of Madeenah and there I met Shaikh Abee 'Abd-ir-Rahmaan Muqbil Ibn Haadee Al-Waadi'ee, (Hafidhahu 'Llah), the Muhaddith of the lands of Yemen. At that time, he was studying in the advanced-level section in the Islaamic University of Madeenah. And he was very close to finishing his treatise on the two books "*Al-Ilzaamaat*" and "*At-Tatabbu*" of Imaam Ad-Daaraqutnee, (Rahimahu 'Llah). I began to attend his classes on the book Jaami' At-Tirmidhee, but it was as if I was hearing mysterious words and riddles!

Then I travelled to Qaseem and there I met the Shaikh, the Haafidh, the Muhaddith of the lands of Najd, 'Abdullaah Ad-Duwaish, (Rahimahu 'Llah). And I attended some of his gatherings in his home in the city of Buraydah. I was amazed by his abstinence (of this world) his humbleness, his diligence, his striving and his patience with seeking and acquiring knowledge (by reading and studying). This was such that he almost lost his eyesight (because of his studies) while in the prime of his youth, and it was to the extent that when I saw him I imagined he was much older than me, whereas he was my same age. At that time, he was memorizing the Six Books (of the Sunnah) ⁴ **completely** with their chains of narration and their texts. And he was at the point of completing his memorization of the Musnad of Imaam Ahmad. And at the same time, he was studying Imaam Muslim's introduction to his Saheeh. Meanwhile, I was amazed and overcome at what I saw and heard. I could not get myself to believe that such a person existed in our world. After this, I returned to Madeenah and Makkah and there I would frequent the classes of our Shaikh, Shaikh Muqbil, at his house in Madeenah time after time.

During the time I spent in Saudi Arabia, I resolved on making two decisions, of which only one of them came through. The first was to abandon continuing my studies in the field of medicine and to instead preoccupy myself with studying the Islaamic sciences. And the second was to stay permanently in Madeenah, the city of Allaah's Messenger (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam), but this did not come through. So I returned to Egypt in 1398H (1978) because Saudi Arabia did not grant me the *iqaamah* (residential status) to remain there. Nevertheless, I did not go back on my other resolution to study the Islaamic sciences, especially since I had gotten a taste of its sweetness during that year.

I also forgot to mention that while making Hajj that year, Allaah enabled me to meet the Shaikh, the Imaam, the Muhaddith of the lands of Shaam, rather the Muhaddith of the whole world, Muhammad Naasir-ud-Deen Al-Albaanee, (Rahimahu 'Llah), several times in both Makkah and Madeenah. This included one time in which I saw him face to face at the place where he was staying in Madeenah. This was in the month of Thul-Hijjah, 1397H. I had seen him before about a year or two ago - I don't recall now - when the Shaikh came to Egypt for purposes of giving Da'wah, due to which he gave a number of lectures. However,

⁴ Such as Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree, Saheeh Muslim and the Sunans of An-Nasaa'ee. At-Tirmidhee, Ibn Maajah and Abu Dawood.

I was far away from him, sitting in the back of the masjid, and I was not able to get a good look at him. Also, another thing that my Lord blessed me with that year I made the Islaamic Hajj was that I memorized much of the Qur'aan, such that I completed a month of memorizing and I had memorized close to eight (8) *ajzaa* (parts) of the Qur'aan in a month.

After returning to Egypt, I married and then moved to Yemen towards the end of the year 1399H (1979), when news reached me that our Shaikh, Abu 'Abd-ir-Rahmaan (Muqbil Ibn Haadee), returned to his country of Yemen. So I travelled to him along with my wife, and I stayed with him for almost a complete year drinking from his fountain of knowledge, night and day.⁵ And I would not separate from him except when I had to sleep at night. This was the happiest year of my life, in which I accompanied the Shaikh for almost a complete year, seeking to study Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree under him and read it to him. And he (Shaikh Muqbil) agreed to this, so this was the beginning of the class, which the Shaikh continued to teach many years afterward, even after my return journey from Yemen to Egypt in 1405H (1985).

During this year, I would attend all of the Shaikh's classes - the class on *Tafseer Ibn Katheer* after Fajr, the class on *Jaami' At-Tirmidhee* in the forenoon, the class on *Sunan Abee Dawood* after Dhuhr, the class on *'Aqeedah At-Tahaawiyyah* with its explanation by Ibn Abeel-'Izz and the explanation of *Qatr-un-Nadaa* of Ibn Hishaam from after 'Asr to just before Maghrib. Then there was a class on *Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree* between Maghrib and 'Ishaa, and a class on *Saheeh Muslim* after 'Ishaa. And apart from this, I would research hadeeth from the Books of Sunnah in the Shaikh's library in between these classes every time I got the chance to do so. And I would ask the Shaikh on what I found difficulty with concerning chains of narration, narrators and the ahaadeeth.

After the year's end, some people from a neighbouring town, close to the area of the Shaikh, came requesting for one of the Shaikh's students to go and teach them and their children. The Shaikh selected me for this task, so I travelled to their town called Wadi Al-Kuna, and I stayed with them for the length of five years, teaching and acquiring what knowledge of the Islamic sciences I could from my studies of the Books of the Sunnah and my research with them.

I returned to Egypt in 1405H (1985). During the time I had spent in Yemen, which was six years in total, I wrote a book on the Adhaan. I finished transcribing it into printable form when I reached Egypt and the book was printed in 1408H (1987). During this time, I was already back in Cairo, learning, teaching and spreading this blessed Salafee Da'wah as much as I was able to.⁶

⁵ **Translator's Note:** In his autobiography entitled "*Tarjamah Abee 'Abdir-Rahmaan*" (pg. 33), Shaikh Muqbil lists Shaikh Usaamah Al-Qoosee as one of his students under (no. 23), saying about him: "Author of the book "*al-Adhaan*", he is establishing the da'wah in Egypt, possessing proficient knowledge with regard to narrating and investigating."

⁶ **Translator's Note:** The Shaikh has an active role in da'wah in Egypt, as can be seen in Shaikh Muqbil's certification of that in the previous footnote. From his activities is that he is currently the Imaam of a masjid called Al-Haadee al-Muhammadee, in which he gives classes and lectures, not to mention Jumu'ah khutbahs. Because of this, he has produced hundreds of tapes, many of which are parts of serializations, such as his famous "***Silsilat Ad-Daa wa Dawaa***" (Series of Lectures entitled the Sickness and the Cure), and his classes on manhaj "***An-Naseehah liman sa'ala 'an as-Sabeel as-Saheehah***" (Advice to those who ask about the Correct Way). The Shaikh does not restrict himself to Egypt, as is shown in his journeys to United States, England, Guyana, Trinidad, France and many other places for the sake of spreading the pure Salafee Da'wah.

In Ramadaan of 1418H (1999), I made 'Umrah and during this time, I met Shaikh Rabee' Ibn Haadee Al-Madkhalee, may Allaah protect him, in Madeenah. Also, my Lord blessed me by allowing me the ability to see Muhammad Ibn Saalih Al-'Uthaimeen in the Haram of Makkah, who was teaching a class on the second floor. Then, my Lord added to my blessing by allowing me to meet with Shaikh 'Abdul-'Azeez Ibn 'Abdillaah Ibn Baaz in his office in Makkah. This was a private meeting that was held on the evening of the 26th day of Ramadaan, after 'Asr till just before Maghrib. This was the first time that I saw the Shaikh and the last time, (Rahimahu 'Llah). On this trip, I also met the noble brother, Shaikh 'Alee Ibn Hasan Al-Halabee for the first time, also in the Haram. And I also met the noble brother Dr. Baasim Ibn Faisal Al-Jawaabirah and the noble brother, Dr. Khaalid Ibn 'Alee Al-'Anbaree.

Then Allaah enabled me to make another 'Umrah in the month of Rajab 1420 H, during which time I met many scholars and students of knowledge. Among them was Shaikh 'Abdul-Muhsin Ibn Hamd Al-'Abbaad Al-Badr, who I saw in his classes and I also visited him in his home in Madeenah. Also, there was the noble shaikh, Faalih Ibn Naafi' Al-Harbee and Shaikh Dr. Ibraaheem Ibn 'Aamir Ar-Ruhaylee, who invited me for dinner with him, where I also met with Shaikh Dr. Saalih As-Suhaymee. During this journey, I also met with the noble brother 'Abdul-Maalik Ibn Ahmad Ramadaanee Al-Jazaa'iree in Madeenah. Then in Makkah, I visited our Shaikh, Rabee' Ibn Haadee Al-Madkhalee and there I met Shaikh 'Umar Bazmool. I also attended the classes of Shaikh Saalih Al-'Abood and Shaikh Husayn Aali Shaikh in the Prophet's Mosque. And when in Makkah, I attended the classes on Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree given by Shaikh Wasiyyullaah 'Abaas.

During my trips to the United States, I met Dr. Saalih Ibn Ghaanim As-Sadlaan, Shaikh Saleem Al-Hilaalee, and Shaikh Muhammad Musa Nasr.

From the people of knowledge whom I met in Egypt were Shaikh Muhammad 'Alee 'Abdur-Raheem, (Rahimahu 'Llah), the former president of Jamaa'at Ansaar As-Sunnah Al-Muhammadiyah in Egypt, and also Shaikh Muhammad Ibn 'Abdil-Wahhaab Ibn Marzooq Al-Bannaa, (Hafidhahu 'Llah).

Allaah also blessed me to meet many people of knowledge and students of knowledge, other than those mentioned above and who carry the Da'wah in the east and the west, the amount of which I cannot account for due to their large number.

And Allaah is sufficient for me and for them, and He alone is the One who guides to the Straight Path.

My Books:

The Book of Adhaan
Fasting and Its Rulings (Available in English from Al-Manhaj E-Books)
Guard your Oaths

Written by Abu Haatim Usaamah Ibn 'Abdil-Lateef Al-Qoosee at the beginning of Rabee'-ul-Awwal 1421H at the request of the brothers at Salafi Society of North America.